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THE JERUSALEM POST

VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 18953

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1995 • NISSAN 26, 5755 • THU AL-QADAH 26, 1415

JORDAN 3 Days \$170
EGYPT 4 Days \$79 see last page
MAZADA TOURS

Bugging probe nets more suspects

RAINE MARCUS

FOLLOWING the arrests and questioning over the past few days of *Ma'ariv* and *Yedioth Aharonot* publishers and editors, the National Serious Crimes Squad yesterday began questioning additional suspects in the increasingly complicated media wiretapping case.

Arkia airlines directors Issi and Dedi Borovitz were questioned under caution about commissioning the wiretapping of the phones of a rival company, Haroel Aviation. They were released yesterday evening after several hours.

Police searched the Arkia offices and the Borovitzes' homes. A senior *Yedioth* journalist was summoned to the squad's Petah Tikva headquarters to identify his voice on a tape seized by police during searches over the past few days. The tape was allegedly recorded illegally.

Meanwhile, *Yedioth* news editor Ruth Ben-Ari was released after seven hours of questioning, for the second day running, over her alleged role in commissioning wiretapping on former *Yedioth* editor Dov Yudkovsky's phone after he moved to *Ma'ariv*.

Yedioth editor Moshe Vardi, arrested on Monday on the same allegations, was still being questioned yesterday and it was not clear last night whether police would request his remand or release him on bail this morning.

Private investigator Amir Ben-Asher, who allegedly bugged Yudkovsky's phone and is currently awaiting trial on charges of conspiracy to murder, was brought from jail for questioning yesterday.

Private investigator Rafi Friedman, indicted on some 40 counts of wiretapping allegedly commissioned by Ofer Nimrodi, and the former partner of state's witness Tsur, was remanded for three days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday. He was rearrested on Sunday after police found substantial new evidence that he took money from Nimrodi to remain silent. After 12 months of refusing to cooperate, Tsur is reportedly "helping" investigators.

Tsur's lawyer, Motti Katz, suspected of obstructing justice and passing on money from Nimrodi to Friedman and Tsur - sometimes via *Ma'ariv* security officer David Ronen - is now reportedly cooperating with police. He was remanded for a week by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Shelley Timen on Sunday, but his appeal to the Tel Aviv District Court was upheld yesterday.

On Saturday police seized a number of tapes from Katz's home, apparently recordings of conversations with Katz, Friedman, Tsur, Nimrodi, and Ronen. Katz had claimed the tapes could not be used in court, since they contained privileged client attorney information. However, after Friedman and Tsur waived their confidentiality rights as clients on Monday, the recordings may now be used as evidence and Katz must explain their contents.

In placing Katz under house arrest, starting at 10 pm last night for a period of seven days, Judge Abraham Baiser said he could see no reason to keep him in custody any longer. He set bail at NIS 100,000 and barred him from leaving the country and from contacting others involved in the case.

A senior police source said yesterday that apparently some suspects arrested in the complex affair, which began a year ago with the arrests of Friedman and Tsur, are beginning to realize that, in view of Tsur's evidence, they are "better off looking out for themselves, and stop protecting others."

Police expect to make additional arrests over the next few days.

Journalists dismayed, Page 2



A peace banner bearing the palm-prints of some 100,000 people from 14 countries is stretched yesterday for about 13 kilometers from Taba through Eilat to Akaba by some 3,000 Israeli and Jordanian schoolchildren. (Moshe Milner/GPO)

Shahak: Closure could lead to downfall of Palestinian Authority

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

THE continued closure of Gaza could bring down the Palestinian Authority, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Meanwhile, as Israel and the PLO resumed talks in Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned that the Middle East peace process is facing "enormous difficulties" and urged all parties to try harder to end the stalemate in the negotiations.

The closure is creating hatred among hundreds of financially-strapped Gazans, Shahak said. "There is also anger against the PA but the attacks will obviously be turned on us," he said. The PA is under great pressure, he added, noting that the PA has undergone some recent changes with the operation of the courts in the autonomous areas and "intensive" arrests.

Shahak said the issue of the closure is very complex. "On the one hand, it is in our interest that people work in Israel as they will be

more satisfied with fewer economic problems; on the other hand, the closure achieves at least 60 percent of the goal of separation. The curfew makes life easier from a security point of view; it reduces attacks in Israel although not in Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

The chief of staff said it had not yet been proved that Hamas and Islamic Jihad cooperated in the attacks at Netzarim and Kfar Darom, but the timing "was a strange coincidence."

Regarding Judea and Samaria, Shahak reminded the MKs that not all members of the Hebron-based Hamas terror cell were caught in the recent arrests there and therefore further attacks are to be expected.

In Cairo, Mubarak spoke in a nationwide address on the anniversary of Israel's 1982 withdrawal from the Sinai.

The peace process is going through enormous difficulties, which ring warning bells unless all [parties] realize the risks and un-

less the elements of logic prevail and reason triumphs," Mubarak said in his televised address.

He specifically mentioned Israeli-Syrian negotiations, which have been stalemated for weeks.

"It has become obvious that there is no alternative but the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, according to the principle of all territory for complete peace," Mubarak said.

He mentioned "stalemate and obstinacy" as the main obstacles to reaching a solution, leading to frustration and disappointment in the region.

Mubarak said Egypt's peace treaty with Israel should serve as a model for others.

Also in Cairo, PLO and Israeli negotiators began two days of talks.

Saeb Erekat, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the two sides will focus on the makeup of an elected council that will administer the territories.

Erekat said the PLO delegates

will also press their Israeli counterparts to discuss an earlier proposal to let the 160,000 Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem take part as both candidates and voters.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Yoel Singer, had no immediate comment.

So far, Erekat said, Israel and the PLO have agreed on the structure of the elected Palestinian council and on its judicial, executive and legislative powers.

Palestinian negotiator Hasan Asfour said yesterday that Israel and the PA are secretly continuing their negotiations on IDF redeployment outside cities and towns prior to holding elections for the PA council.

Asfour was quoted by the French news agency AFP as saying that away from the limelight, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat are negotiating the redeployment as well as other issues.

Alon Pinkas contributed to this report.

11 soldiers wounded in security zone suicide attack

Shahak: Attacks in zone have doubled this year

DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS

ELEVEN IDF soldiers were wounded - two moderately and nine lightly - in a Hizbullah suicide car-bomb attack in the security zone yesterday afternoon.

The attack, in which some 200 kilograms of explosives were used, occurred at about 5 p.m. while a convoy of four army vehicles was taking soldiers, mainly from the IDF's Lebanese liaison unit, to a base in the Bint J'ail area.

It appears the suicide car bomber - apparently a resident of the zone and quite probably from Bint J'ail - drove towards the convoy when he saw it approaching, and detonated the explosives when he was as near as possible.

An initial investigation by the Northern Command indicated the soldiers had complied with regulations concerning traveling in convoys and this, as well as luck, had prevented worse casualties.

The soldiers were evacuated by helicopters to Haifa's Rambam Hospital and to the Nahariya Government Hospital.

Almost simultaneously, gunmen from Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, fired a barrage of mortars and Katyusha rockets toward Bint J'ail and nearby villages in the zone - in the area of the car bomb attack.

Reports from Lebanon said as many as seven villagers were wounded, at least one of them seriously. The civilian casualties would normally have been taken to hospital in Bint J'ail, but the town also came under fire and they were instead evacuated to Marjayoun.

At a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting yesterday, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said there are an average of 50 to 60 attacks a month in southern Lebanon.

He called the figures a "significant increase," noting that "the numbers are twice what they were this time last year. Not a day passes without an attack."

Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai, deputy director of Rambam, said the more badly wounded were not as seriously hurt as first reported. Two were in moderate condition suffering from shrapnel injuries. One also had a broken arm and

the other was suffering from a broken jaw. Ben-Ishai said the other wounded admitted to the hospital had light injuries after being hit by fragments, and there was a

60 Palestinian boys complete bombing course

SOME 60 Lebanese-Palestinian youths are believed to have enrolled in a suicide bombers course run by a former Fatah supporter at the Eia el-Hilweh refugee camp, near Sidon.

"I am here to learn how to liberate my country from the Jews," a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, Imnan Hemda, was quoted as saying in the Beirut daily *Ad-Diyar*.

He said he quit school and came to the training camp. "I am now ready to carry out any mission for Palestine, now that we have become human bombs."

Mohammed, 14, said he came to the camp because he "would rather fight for Palestine than stay in the alleyways of the refugee camp. I have good reasons to die for Allah in order to rid my country from the occupier." (Itim)

good chance several of them would be released today.

The 11th wounded soldier was taken to Nahariya with very light wounds.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine visited the wounded at Rambam last night, as well as other soldiers recuperating from wounds sustained in previous attacks in Lebanon.

Levine said Hizbullah's activities continue to increase and the organization is doing its utmost to hit the IDF and the South Lebanese Army.

Despite the fact that there have not been any suicide car-bomb attacks in the zone for several years, the army has maintained strict regulations to try to prevent such incidents and minimize damage and casualties.

One of the main regulations regards vehicles remaining at a safe distance from one another when traveling in convoy. Further (Continued on Page 2)

Muashar: Restore eastern Jerusalem to Palestinians

BILL HUTMAN

JORDANIAN Ambassador Marwan Muashar yesterday called for eastern Jerusalem to "go back to Arab sovereignty," reiterating the Hashemite Kingdom's position on the city.

"East Jerusalem is part of occupied Arab territories," Muashar told a meeting with foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv. Later in the day, Muashar went to Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, and reaffirmed Jordan's support for Palestinian claims to eastern Jerusalem.

The Jordanians and Palestinians "have worked out our differences on Jerusalem a long time ago," Muashar said. "When Jerusalem is returned to the Palestinian side, the sovereignty of the holy places will also be given to the Palestinians," he told reporters after the meeting.

The Jordanians and Palestinians were at odds over control of the Moslem holy sites, but recently officials on both sides have stated the Jordanians recognize the Palestinians' right to the sites, in the event eastern Jerusalem is relinquished by Israel.

In the meantime, Jordan continues to demand control of the sites, most notably the Temple Mount.

The Israel Police kept its distance throughout Muashar's visit to Jerusalem. Palestinian security guards accompanied him to Orient House and on a short walk to a hotel where a luncheon meeting was held.

"The Jerusalem police do not see anything illegal about Palestinian security guards accompanying the Jordanian ambassador in eastern Jerusalem," police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, Sari Nusseibeh, and Hanan Ashrawi were among the Palestinians at the meetings. Muashar said he would keep close contact with Jerusalem's Palestinian leaders.

Asked if he was concerned about government reaction to the meetings, Mu-

shar said, "This is a brotherly visit. I don't see why a storm should be made over it."

Government leaders have spoken out against foreign leaders meeting with Palestinian officials at Orient House, viewing it as an affront to Israeli sovereignty. Little action, however, has been taken to stop such meetings.

Meanwhile, at the briefing to foreign reporters, Muashar said most Jordanians oppose any quick warming of relations with Israel.

"Most Jordanians' support [for the peace with Israel] is lukewarm and guarded at best," he said.

"People-to-people relations ... are still opposed by the majority of Jordanians in a lot of ways," added Muashar, who took up his post two weeks ago.

Sarah Honig adds:

The Likud and Tsomet yesterday lashed out against the government for allowing Muashar's visit to Orient House.

Likud Knesset faction chairman Moshe Katsav reminded the government yesterday that "Prime Minister Rabin had asked the Likud to support special legislation that would allow him to take action against activities in Orient House. His excuse was that he cannot act without suitable legislative foundation. We provided him with it, but now it seems he was taking us for a ride and grossly misleading the nation. What he apparently lacks is not the legal authority to act, but the will."

Tsomet MK Moshe Peled accused Rabin of "making a laughing stock of the Knesset and a travesty of legislation adopted at his specific request. We have given him the very tools he asked for to take the necessary action he said he wanted to take, but as far as he is concerned, it is just a law on the books which does not bind him. This attitude endangers our continued hold on Jerusalem."

Clinton may prohibit American companies from trading with Iran

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton may issue an executive order in the coming days that would prohibit American companies and their foreign subsidiaries from trading with Iran, senior administration officials said yesterday.

The order could come before Congress returns next week from its spring recess, they said. The move is meant to send a signal to US allies that Washington is moving forcefully against American companies dealing with Teheran. Germany and other allies have criticized the administration for condemning those countries' dealings with Iran while US companies are doing the same.

The executive order "is among the options being considered" that "might be appropriate to stiffen trade and commerce with Iran," the official said.

Armed with an executive order, the US would initiate a new diplomatic initiative to isolate Iran economically, sources said.

The Commerce Department is said to oppose such a measure for the toll it would take on US businesses.

The executive order would indicate a new phase in US efforts to eliminate all economic dealings with Teheran. Clinton issued an executive order on March 15 canceling a \$1 billion deal by CONOCO to develop two offshore Iranian oil fields.

Under current US law, American companies are forbidden from importing Iranian oil but may purchase it abroad and resell it.

That loophole in the law allowed some of the largest American petroleum companies to purchase over \$4 billion worth of Iranian oil last year alone and then resell it.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Rep. Peter King, both New York Republicans, have already introduced legislation to not only ban US trade with Iran but also close the US market to foreign companies dealing with Teheran.

Man charged with conspiracy in Oklahoma City bombing

MILAN, Michigan (Reuters) - A man has been charged with conspiring with a suspect held over the Oklahoma bombing to build explosives in Michigan, officials said on Tuesday.

Federal prosecutor Saul Green told a news conference here that James Nichols, one of two brothers

already held as a material witness to the Oklahoma bombing, had been charged with building explosive devices in the state. Timothy McVeigh, arrested for the explosion, was named as a co-conspirator.

Earlier story, Page 4

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Hamas man dies after interrogation

ALON PINKAS

HAMAS yesterday warned that Israel will pay a high price for the death of one of its members under interrogation.

Abed Harizat, a member of Izzadin Kassam, was arrested by the General Security Service in Hebron Saturday night and died of a head wound yesterday at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem.

The Justice Ministry's internal police investigations department is investigating the incident.

Harizat was suspected of participating in Izzadin Kassam attacks on Israeli targets in the Hebron area. He was interrogated by GSS and police investigators in the Jerusalem police lockup in the Russian Compound, but was rushed on Sunday to Hadassah, where he was treated for severe head injuries.

The GSS says Harizat advised them of a medical problem prior to his interrogation, but the doctor who checked him said he was healthy. Harizat is the fourth security-detainee to die in custody since January.

Hamas distributed a leaflet in the Gaza Strip saying that "The Islamic Resistance Movement considers the terrorist [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin and his gangs of killers ...

responsible for the martyrdom of Abdel-Samad Hazrat. ... [They] will pay a very high price."

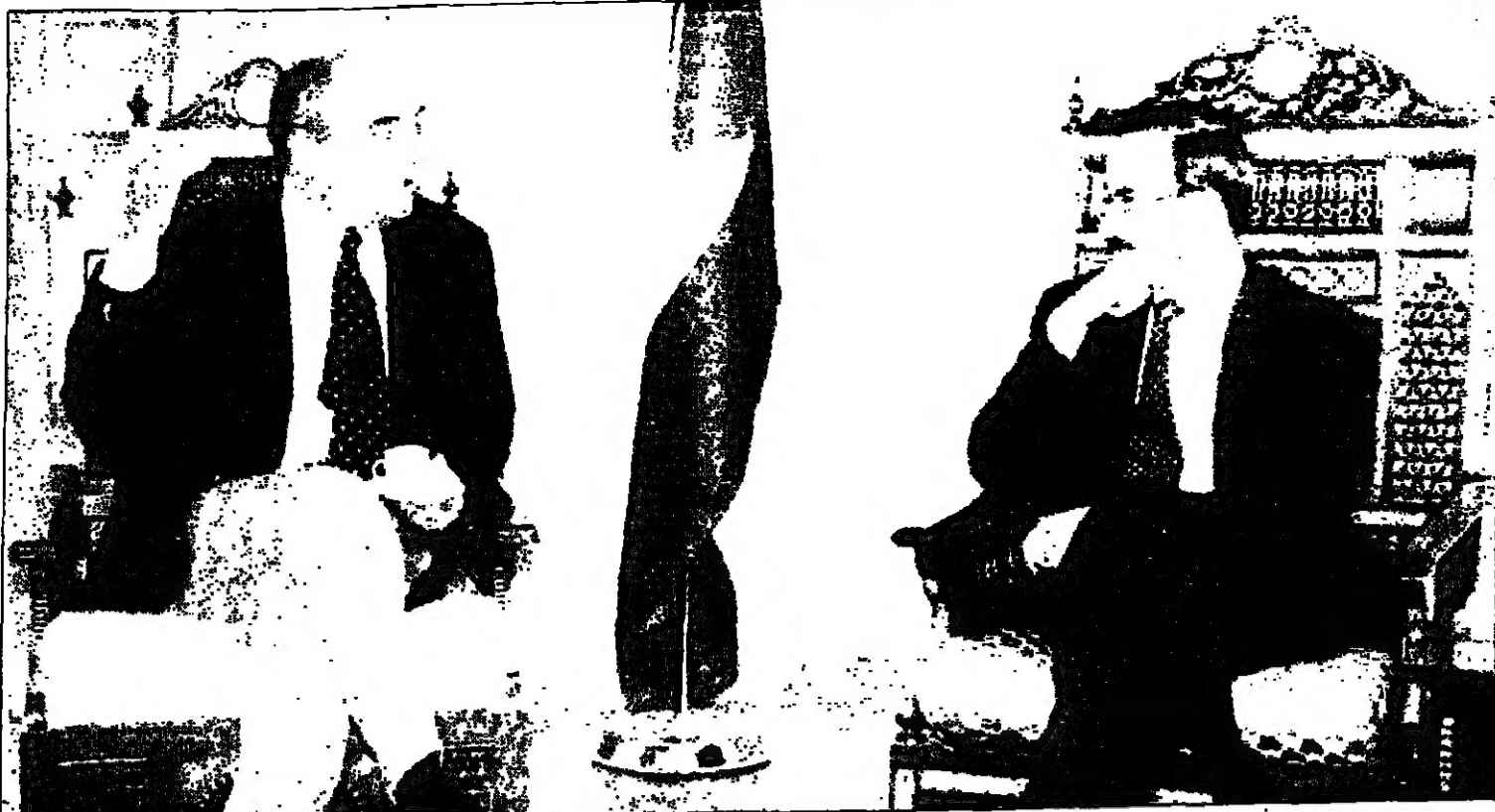
The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) issued a statement describing his death as "worrying." Committee lawyer Andre Rosenthal said a doctor at Hadassah, asked for his opinion of the cause of death, said Harizat arrived with visible bruises but not around the head.

Rosenthal petitioned the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court to order an independent inquiry into the death.

The court agreed to the request for an autopsy, but sought family approval first.

PCATI stresses that since the special ministerial committee on the GSS in April extended by three months its permission to interrogate detainees using physical pressure beyond the restrictions imposed by the Landau Commission, four prisoners have died during or as a result of interrogations (one committed suicide).

PCATI spokeswoman Hanna Friedman said the committee demands a comprehensive investigation of the deaths and a change in the regulations governing interrogations.



Faisal Hussein (left) meets yesterday with Jordan's Ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, at Orient House in Jerusalem. (AP)

PA proposes construction of 10,000 housing units

BILL HUTMAN

THE Palestinian Authority has proposed constructing 10,000 housing units in Jerusalem to provide homes for Palestinian families and offset Israeli development in the city.

Eastern Jerusalem Arabic dailies reported yesterday that the PA submitted a proposal to the Arab League to fund construction of the new homes.

Palestinian officials in the capital, however, were skeptical about the plan. Even if funding is found - which is not likely - only a sharp change in Israeli policy

would make it possible for the units to go up, they said.

A report recently completed by the Palestinian Geographic Society showed that little Palestinian-owned land exists in plots large enough for construction of housing projects, and which is zoned for building.

The report was drafted at the request of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and was turned over to him recently. Palestinian sources said

said a PLO official in the capital. "Arafat clearly knows there is little chance for Palestinians to build 10,000 homes in Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Faisal Hussein said yesterday he received commitments for funding for Palestinian development in Jerusalem, during a recent visit to several Gulf States.

Hussein has shuttled between the Gulf States over the past several months in an effort to raise money for Palestinian projects in Jerusalem.

3 Israelis held for selling arms for drugs

ALON PINKAS and Itim

THREE civilians were arrested recently on suspicion of selling weapons to an Arab resident of Kafr Yassid in Samaria in exchange for drugs. Two soldiers have already been charged in the case.

The three, all in their twenties, are residents of the Petah Tikva area. One of them is suspected of selling sixgrenades he received from one of the soldiers. Another is being held for selling drugs and for selling weapons to a Kafr Yassid resident. The third is being held for selling car radios and tape players and selling them to the Arab resident. All three are to be charged soon.

Meanwhile, 10 activists from Ha-

mas, the Democratic Front, Islamic Jihad, and Fatah were arrested recently in the Jenin area. The arrests came a day after 14 members of a wanted Hamas-affiliated cell in the Hebron area were apprehended, as announced by the IDF spokesman on Monday.

Two Fatah activists were arrested in connection with their possible complicity in the murder of three suspected collaborators. The DFLP men were arrested in Yabed, outside Jenin, and the five Hamas members were arrested in Jenin.

All 10 are wanted for incitement to violence and assistance to organizing attacks.

SOLDIERS

(Continued from Page One) thermore, residents of the zone are required to stop and pull to one side when a convoy is passing to prevent them getting between the army vehicles, most of which now have reinforced armor plating.

Hizbullah issued a statement saying one of its members had carried out the attack in memory of the organization's regional leader, Roda Yassin, who was killed in an IAF helicopter raid north of the zone at the end of last month and "other martyrs."

Hizbullah secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in a statement carried by the organization's own radio last night that he had issued a warning to the "Zionist enemy" not to shell Lebanese villages in response to the car bombing.

"This was a purely military operation. Our holy fighters have orders to return fire [at Israel] if any villages are shelled," he was quoted as saying.

IDF and SLA gunners blasted suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone in response to the car

bombing and the mortar and Katyusha rocket attacks on villages in the zone. Helicopter gunships also scoured the ground from above, but there were no reports of any Hizbullah or Lebanese civilian casualties as a result of the shelling.

Hizbullah has been expected to further escalate its activities against the zone on the eve of its bi-annual conference, which is slated to take place in Beirut later this month.

Shahak's regular monthly review, the first since the rocket attack which killed a Nahariya youth a month ago, was downbeat and mentioned the threat from Syria as well as terror and the closure.

Hizbullah will not differentiate between the IDF and the SLA in responding to heavy civilian casualties in south Lebanon, he said. "They have decided on a new policy. They will use a lighter finger on the trigger as a result," Shahak said, noting that Israel would be the target as well as the SLA.

Syrian FM will visit Washington in May

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

SYRIAN Foreign Minister Farouk Shara will visit here next month, senior administration officials said yesterday.

The visit, which the official said would likely occur the second half of May, will focus on advancing Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Both the Shara visit and that of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin late next week will "offer us a clear opportunity, post-Dennis Ross's visit, for discussing resuming military-level talks," the official said.

"To put that scenario back on track will take more than just the ambassadorial talks."

Those talks are due to resume in the coming days, Israeli officials said. They were recessed while US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross visited the region three weeks ago and then took a vacation last week.

Syrian Ambassador Walid Maaleem also returned to Washington on Sunday after accompa-

nying Ross to Damascus.

The US official said it was "most unlikely" that the talks between Maaleem and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich would bring about the "closure" necessary to bring military officials from both sides back to the table.

Another official said "there's obviously a sense of urgency on the peace process," but that there was "no fixed agenda" for Shara's meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"It's a matter of people sensing what'll be helpful at a given time" to assist the negotiations, the second official said.

Shara was last in Washington in October 1994. Shara was due to come last week following his attendance at the UN conference in New York on extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but scheduling problems on both sides delayed the visit, the official said.

Workers push enforcement of no-smoking law

JUDY SIEGEL

SIX months after the law restricting smoking in the workplace went into effect, 80 percent of all workplaces are abiding by it, but mostly due to the insistence of non-smoking employees.

A seminar on enforcement of the law held in Jerusalem yesterday showed that the local authorities and the government have a long way to go in dealing with complaints.

Dr. Alma Avni, head of the ministry's occupational medicine department, said that some 800 non-smoking Israelis die each year from the effects of sidestream smoke - 760 from cardiovascular diseases and the rest from lung cancer. This, compared with about 500 dead from road accidents, and a total of 5,000 died annually from smoking. Avni said that according to a survey, the law is not observed yet in a fifth of the country's 60,000 workplaces.

Swedes concede 'collective guilt'

STOCKHOLM (AP) - From the princess to the prime minister, national leaders said yesterday that neutral Sweden had been wrong to keep silent on the Holocaust 50 years ago and vowed "never again."

Heartfelt speeches and plaintive singing resounded in Stockholm's cavernous City Hall during a remembrance ceremony that some critics beforehand had labeled hypocritical.

"We must never forget the silence and ignorance of our own government," Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson told the audience

Jerusalem Mayor (and former health minister) Ehud Olmert said he had become "persuaded" about the great importance of protecting the non-smoking public (now a record-low 26 percent of the population). In North America, he said, those who smoke in public areas are made to feel like "criminal offenders," but that degree of awareness has not yet reached here.

At the same time, Israel Police official Dov Schechter noted that police are extremely busy with security, crime and road accidents. If a municipal inspector is unable to get a smoker to identify himself and to quit smoking in the workplace, he may call the police and instruct the violator to remain in place (but not physically detain him) until the police arrive. "Although we are very busy, we will do our best to send someone, but we can't make this a promise," Schechter said.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Father of three killed by truck

Shlomo Ben-Hamu, 36, deputy head of the Betar Ilit Local Council, was killed yesterday when the car he was driving was struck head-on by a semitrailer that swerved from its lane on a mountain curve near Jerusalem.

Ben-Hamu was killed outright, and the slightly injured truck driver was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem. Police are waiting to question him.

Born in Morocco, Ben-Hamu made aliya with his family in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Miriam, daughter Bat-El, 13, and sons Haim, nine, and Yehiel, five.

Itim

More Chernobyl children arrive

On the eve of the ninth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, 25 Jewish children from Gomel and Mazyr - two of the most contaminated cities in Belarus - arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday under the Habad Children of Chernobyl relief program and were greeted by many of the more than 1,100 Chernobyl children who arrived on previous flights. It was the 16th flight sponsored and organized by Habad so far. The youngsters will live at Kfar Habad until their parents arrive during the coming months.

1,200 CIS immigrants arrive in one day

Some 1,200 new immigrants from the CIS arrived here yesterday, the highest number to come in one day since 1992. Two-thirds of the immigrants arrived on nine flights, and the remaining 400 by ship from Odessa. A further 1,100 olim are expected to arrive before the end of the month, bringing the total for the first third of 1995 to 23,000 new immigrants, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said.

Foreign Ministry names appointments

Five new Foreign Ministry deputy director-general appointments were approved yesterday by the ministry's appointments committee.

Herzl Inbar was appointed the new deputy director-general for Latin American affairs. Yitzhak Shelef will head the Asian affairs department, while Natan Meron will become director of the eastern Europe division. Yaacov Levy will become deputy director-general in charge of communications, and Haim Divon will be the new head of the international assistance and cooperation department.

Wakf: Temple Mount is for Moslems only

BILL HUTMAN

JEWISH worship on the Temple Mount will not be tolerated, Moslem leaders in Jerusalem declared yesterday at an emergency meeting, called in response to recent attempts by Jews to pray there.

"The entire area is a mosque, and according to Islamic law it is forbidden for non-Moslems to pray at a mosque," said Wakf director Adnan Hussein.

Hussein said that what Jews call the Temple Mount, is for Moslems Al-Aksa Mosque, defined as both the mosque structure, and the walled area around it. "If Israel intends to change its policy, and begin allowing Jews to pray at Al-Aksa, it will find itself up against the entire Islamic world," Hussein told the Post.

Since 1967 Israel has maintained a policy of permitting only Moslem worship at the Temple Mount, on grounds that allowing Jews to worship there would spark unrest.

That policy has been challenged recently by a new group, Hai V'yakam, which periodically sends members to the Temple Mount to pray, often clashing with police and Wakf guards.

The emergency meeting of members of the Higher Islamic Council was called after the latest attempt on Sunday by the group to pray on the Temple Mount. The council issued a statement calling for international intervention to "uphold the rights of Moslems at Al-Aksa," and police to take tougher action.

Probe lowers morale of journalists

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE journalists at both *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Aharonot* yesterday made an effort to go about their daily assignments as usual, despite the fact that their senior editors have been led away by the police and their offices raided by detectives.

"I'm miserable," a *Yediot Aharonot* journalist said. "You know what a newspaper is like, it's a family. I love the office and the people in it, and when one of us is hurt, when I saw [editor-in-chief] Moshe Vardi being led away by the police, it hurts all of us. Especially when you think that whatever he did, he did it for the paper."

The most painful thing, one senior journalist admitted, is the blow to the image of the press and the irrevocable damage to journalists' status in general, which all this has caused.

Journalists here agreed that justice must be done, but most of them felt that the affair was blown out of all proportion. "It's as though there's a kind of gloating at the possible downfall of the two largest newspapers, which are owned by rich families and perceived to be too powerful," one said.

Perhaps most unsettling in both newspapers is the feeling of uncertainty: nobody knows what their bosses are supposed to have done exactly and how grave things really are.

Ma'ariv's journalists, still reeling from editor-owner Ofer Nimrodi's arrest Saturday, listened incredulously to *Ha'aretz* publisher Amos Schocken's statement on the radio that "there is a suspicion that criminal elements have taken over an important newspaper."

"Nobody likes seeing their boss arrested, no matter what he's supposed to have done," a *Ma'ariv* editor said. "People's heart went out to Nimrodi. There is a feeling of closing ranks and enlisting all our forces to see this through."

Work in *Ma'ariv* continued quietly and "busily" yesterday, the cynical jokes in the corridors thinly hiding the tension. Some couldn't help looking ahead with worry. "*Ma'ariv* has undergone so many shocks lately, and now this. Yes, there is concern for the future," a journalist confided.

But another said that this may be the beginning of "cleaning up" the press system, "which has become increasingly brutal and insensitive over the last few years. The press, especially *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot* - just look at the headlines - has become yellow with sensationalism. It had to stop somewhere, so that the press could regain its basic values. Maybe this is the inevitable explosion we needed to change direction."

Zucker considers legislation on indicted editors

LIAT COLLINS

MERETZ MK Dedi Zucker, who chairs the Knesset Law Committee, said yesterday he will initiate legislation that would force a newspaper editor or owner to resign from his position if indicted on criminal charges.

"There has been such a serious crisis in the press, and this faith must be regained," he said.

He noted that the existing regulations concerning the press date from the British Mandate. "It's about time they were changed. We need blue-and-white legislation," he said.

He said that although he would prefer a situation in which political intervention was not necessary in the press, such crucial matters could not be left unsupervised in the light of the current affair.

GOLDEN AGE SUPPLEMENT

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ZEEV VLADIMIR HALPERIN ז"ל

passed away בברכה ובחיים, on Monday, April 24 (24 Nissan 5755).

He is mourned by his wife, Noemi
His children, Michel, Daniel and Miriam
with Esther, Karen and Pierre
His ten grandchildren, Lionel,
Anouchka, Demian, Liv, Sophie,
Nathanaël, Joël, Larissa, Raphael,
Shirane
and his many friends and admirers in
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expresses its deepest condolences to Michael Sherbourne
a true friend and tireless supporter of refugees and Prisoners of Zion,
on the loss of
MURIEL

his wife and co-activist on behalf of the Soviet Jewry Movement.

Iraq rejects UN oil offer

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament yesterday unanimously rejected a United Nations resolution that would allow Iraq, struggling under UN Gulf War sanctions, to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs.

"The vote is unanimous to turn down the resolution," Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Ghanim Aziz Ghadouri said after a three-hour session attended by foreign reporters.

"This resolution is not binding on Iraq as it violates the legal norms in the UN charter...infringes on Iraqi sovereignty and flagrantly interferes in the essence of the internal authority," the MPs said in a statement.

The cabinet at a session headed by President Saddam Hussein had advised rejection of the plan to let Iraq sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy humanitarian supplies.

Iraq's oil exports are banned under UN sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad told the 250-member parliament the measure would not have eased suffering because most proceeds would have gone for war reparations and other UN-related costs. He said the measure did not account for oil installation operation fees, estimated at \$170 million every three months.

He said Iraq had restored about 80 percent of the Gulf War damage to its oil installations and was operating refineries at 90 percent of pre-Gulf War capacity.

He also said Iraq did not feel secure about exporting most of its oil through a Turkish pipeline, as the UN plan required, since part of the pipeline was under Iraqi Kurdish rebel control and another part under Turkish Kurd guerrillas.

He said Iraq had repaired the twin pipeline to Turkey over its territory and believed it could go into full operation shortly after the UN removed curbs on oil exports.

Turkey pulls back troops from Iraq

ANKARA (AP) - Turkey pulled out nearly two-thirds of its troops from northern Iraq five weeks into its offensive against Kurdish rebels, the military spokesman said yesterday.

Col. Dogu Silahcioglu told a news conference that 20,000 troops, comprising five brigades, returned to their bases in Hakkari and Sirnak provinces on the border.

State television showed soldiers, tanks and armored personnel carriers, flying Turkish flags, crossing into Turkey from the Habur border post under heavy rain before dawn yesterday.

About 12,000 soldiers remain in northern Iraq.

"The remaining troops will also return home when their mission is completed during the course of the operation," Silahcioglu said. He did not say when that was expected.

However, military analysts noted that a full withdrawal could take longer as the rebels continued to challenge the army. Forty-one rebels and two soldiers were killed in a clash.



A UN soldier pulls two dead children from a pile of bodies prior to their burial in a mass grave. (Reuters)

Soldiers prod Rwandan Hutu refugees homeward

PAULINE JELINEK
BUTARE

SOLDIERS prodded tens of thousands of Hutu refugees out of Butare and on toward their home villages yesterday while fears intensified that mass returns would touch off a wave of deadly reprisals by members of a rival ethnic group.

An estimated 60,000 people were camped in the open in and around Butare, having fled the refugee camp at Kibeho 32 km to the west after thousands were gunned down by soldiers or trampled to death in stampedes on Saturday.

By official UN estimate, at least 2,000 men, women and children were killed at Kibeho, but some UN officials and private aid workers say the number was probably much higher.

Most of the refugees from the camp are Hutus who took shelter at Kibeho last year for fear of reprisals by the victorious, Tutsi-led rebel army for the genocidal massacres of a half million Rwandans, most of them Tutsis.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali has been trying for months to get the more than 2

million refugees inside Rwanda and in neighboring countries to return to their homes.

Its soldiers were continuing that effort in Butare yesterday, sometimes harshly.

Aid workers and others said many refugees were being abused by civilians and soldiers alike.

"You know local people standing along the route are carrying sticks and hitting them quite heavily," said Brynjar Wetteland, an employee of the UN Children's Fund. "I even saw lots of soldiers that would hit people that were quite unable to defend themselves."

The UN special envoy to Rwanda, Shaharyar Khan, said some 200,000 refugees were on the march throughout Rwanda. He and other UN officials warned of renewed hostility toward returning refugees.

A UN military spokesman in Kigali, Lt. Kent Page, said he had

personally seen refugees whipped and stoned by civilians and soldiers.

"They are more than just minor incidents," he said.

In Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the Rwandan government had reported that at least nine returning refugees had been killed and that 1,100 had been locked in a bank building in the village of Ngenda. The building is supposed to hold 500 people, spokesman Ron Redmond said.

Many of the returning refugees were in bad condition, he said. Some had machete wounds, others had been stoned or beaten.

Khan said some 70 percent of the refugees nationwide were expected to stream into four villages. Some 10,000 arrived yesterday in one village, Gitarama, he said in Kigali.

"The government is conscious of the fact that there is going to be

a huge problem in terms of food and water," Khan said. "There is also a question of hostility."

Khan said the United Nations has asked that at least one human rights monitor be placed in each of the 13 villages to which the 200,000 refugees were returning and that additional military observers be stationed in the villages.

A standoff continued yesterday at Kibeho between soldiers and about 600 men, women and children who were refusing to vacate a school. Some of the holdouts apparently are hard-line Hutus who have the most to fear from the Tutsi-led army.

Others were apparently being held against their will by Hutu extremists using them as human shields, said one UN official.

"There is a very hard core inside the building with weapons and grenades and they are trying to persuade the other people not to leave," said Benedict Gievaer, a field officer for the UN Rwanda Emergency Organization. "It is a very difficult situation for us."

(Reuters)

Tension rises in Bosnia as end of truce looms

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - The United Nations said yesterday the coming end of a four-month truce was raising the military tension that triggered shelling in Sarajevo and Bihac and clashes along frontlines across Bosnia.

"The activity is more a reflection of current tension than any military offensives," said UN spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward.

In Moscow, a senior Russian foreign ministry official said yesterday the decision by a UN tribunal to name Bosnian Serb leaders as suspects in future war crimes trials could endanger a peace settlement in the region.

Interfax news agency quoted the official, whom it did not name, as saying: "Such a step will harm efforts to achieve a peace settlement in the Balkans."

The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, based in The Hague, said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, army commander Ratko Mladic, and former secret police chief Mico Stanisic were being investigated as war crimes suspects.

The foreign ministry official told Interfax it was more productive to search for a political settlement than to "stir the past."

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said his ministry often uses an "unnamed diplomat" formula to express its opinion.

The battered ceasefire in Bosnia is due to end in five days with little sign it can be extended. The

Bosnian government and separatist Serbs both rejected pleas last week by UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi to prolong the truce.

UN mediators will make a last-ditch attempt to negotiate an extension later in the week.

Their task has been made harder by a decision by the UN war crimes tribunal to name Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and two top aides as suspected war criminals. Officials say it will harden Serb resolve to defy the world.

On Monday shells crashed into the UN-declared "safe areas" of Sarajevo and Bihac town.

Mortar fire killed two men in the capital near the Gavril Princip bridge, named after the Serb who shot the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914, sparking World War One. The sound of heavy machinegun fire also echoed across the city.

"Both sides show they are ready to respond to any provocation by the other side," said UN spokeswoman Cap. Miriam Souchaki, after another night of blasts in a city supposedly protected from heavy weapons by UN resolutions.

The United Nations said Serb forces fired more than 25 artillery rounds into Bihac overnight, seriously wounding one man.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko condemned the shelling by Bosnian Serbs and said it "underlined the urgency of renewing the cessation of hostilities accord."

Russian premier forms election bloc

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced yesterday he was creating a bloc of people "who want to see Russia stable, powerful and sure of itself" to run in parliamentary elections.

President Boris Yeltsin praised Chernomyrdin's decision, making clear it was part of a coordinated strategy aimed at preventing the Kremlin's opponents winning a majority in December's State Duma elections.

"I am sure he (Chernomyrdin) will unite serious people in his movement for a serious task," Yeltsin said in a written answer to RIA news agency which his press service published.

"And I definitely know there are other people in Russia than the various irresponsible extremists who sneak into politics just to show off," Yeltsin said.

Chernomyrdin, 57, told reporters: "Russia has had enough shocks and revolutions. It should not be turned into a testing ground. Russia is our home, where

accord and stability should reign and we should ensure this."

"We will take part in elections. A bloc, or a movement, will be formed. Worthy people should be elected to the State Duma - people who want to see Russia stable, powerful and sure of itself."

Chernomyrdin, prime minister since December 1992, made his career in the Soviet energy sector. He has proved loyal to the president and to market reforms and is likely to be backed by centrist, moderate reformers as well as many influential financial and industrial groups.

It is clear that both Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin want to avoid a repetition of the 1993 elections to the Duma.

Both men did not at that time side with any party. Despite wide expectations of a victory for reformers, the big winner was ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Democrats remain split and many of them are hostile to the Kremlin over its bloody campaign in breakaway Chechnya.

Ginger Rogers dies at 83

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) - Ginger Rogers, the glamorous blonde who made dance floor magic with Fred Astaire in a string of Hollywood musicals and won an Academy Award as best actress for the drama *Kitty Foyle*, died yesterday at 83.

Miss Rogers died at her home here, said Riverside County Coroner Veronica Martinez.

Miss Rogers' career spanned 65 years in every field of show business from vaudeville to television. During the 1940s she was one of the highest paid, most sought-after Hollywood stars, appearing in such hits as *Roxie Hart*, *Tom, Dick and Harry*, *The Major and the Minor*, *Lady in the Dark* and *Weekend at the Waldorf*.

But she was most remembered for the blissful partnership with Astaire in sparkling musicals that brightened America in the economic Depression of the 1930s.

homa bombing suspect, sources said, as new evidence emerged about jailed suspect Timothy McVeigh.

The death toll in the Oklahoma City blast rose to 87 yesterday, as this stunned city prepared for a new round of funerals.

Rescuers clawed through tons of debris in the tomb of the federal building but said they were still a long way from reaching the parts of the building where many victims are believed to be. The White House has said the final death toll may exceed 200.

McVeigh, the only person charged so far in the bombing, has refused to answer any questions about the worst domestic terrorist attack in US history. Law enforcement sources said the FBI was preparing an enhanced sketch of the second suspect based on new interviews with the witnesses who saw two men rent a Ryder truck in Kansas that was later used in the bombing.

(Agencies)

California man killed by parcel bomb

SACRAMENTO - A package bomb exploded in an office building in Sacramento, killing a man, officials said.

Police and FBI said they believe that the bombing was carried out by the mysterious "Unabomber," who has been linked to 15 other explosive devices over 17 years.

"Based on a preliminary assessment of some of the materials, the bomb task force advised me that the similarities strongly suggest it was the work of the Unabomber," said Richard Ross, who heads the FBI's Sacramento office.

The bomb exploded at the office of the California Forestry Association, a timber industry lobbying group, blowing out several windows and doors in the one-storey brick building.

The victim was identified by police as 47-year-old Gilbert Murray, a lobbyist and president of the Forestry Association. He had a wife and three children.

No one else was hurt in the blast at the office.

Police said the shoebox-sized package was mailed to the association's offices. Murray opened it. Attacks by the "Unabomber" go back to 1978. Two other people have been killed and 23 injured in the blasts. The "Unabomber" frequently sends his bombs through the mail.

The explosion came five days after a massive truck bomb rocked a federal building in Oklahoma City, killing at least 87 people and leaving up to 150 missing.

The FBI yesterday was drawing a better, more detailed sketch of the still-missing second Okla-

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Say it ain't so!

THE entreaty "Say it ain't so, Joe," now part of the American language, was supposedly first made by a young baseball fan to a famous player charged with deliberately losing games for money. It is the kind of plea every journalist would like to make to the editors of the two Hebrew tabloids *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Aharonot*, suspected of ordering the wiretapping of their competitors, colleagues, and reporters.

It is unfair and unjust to discuss the case at this point. Not only because the two editors, like all others involved in the case, must be considered innocent unless convicted in court; but because the sub judice rules should apply from the moment suspects have been detained.

That the *Ha'aretz* publisher found it necessary on Monday to state gratuitously that he is disturbed by the possibility that "a major paper has been taken over by criminal elements" is therefore puzzling. Paying the expected lip service to the slogan "innocent until proved guilty" is far too facile. To observe this quintessential tenet of democratic jurisprudence, one must avoid jumping to conclusions no matter how persuasive the publicized evidence may be.

What can and should be pointed out has more to do with the police than with the suspects. When the first listening devices - attached to the home telephone line of *Yediot* director Miriam Mozes - were discovered, the case was deemed insignificant. The general assumption was that the culprits would be caught in short order and brought to justice.

But when the case developed into a potentially major scandal, involving the highly influential and well-connected owners and editors of

the two mass-circulation papers, pundits dismissed the possibility that the criminal investigation would be pursued. The police, they said, would never dare let the case lead to anything that would embarrass such powerful people. But they were wrong, and the country is fortunate for it. Disregarding rank and prominence, the police doggedly followed every lead and let the chips fall where they may.

This egalitarian attitude is not only admirable for demonstrating that all are equal before the law. It may have serendipitous results by subjecting some of the country's luminaries to the unconscionable indignities of the police lockup. *Ma'ariv* publisher and editor Ofer Nimrodi bitterly complained about long hours in a cell without toilet or bed, and the jailers' refusal to allow him the use of a toilet. Chief of *Ma'ariv* security David Ronen, a former high ranking officer in the General Security Service, was confined in a windowless room, also without access to facilities.

Worst of all, the detained suspects were denied bail, although there is no fathomable reason for them to be detained before indictments are handed down. Having surrendered their passports, they cannot leave the country, and they present no danger to the community. These are the only criteria by which the decision on bail should be made.

Perhaps now the Hebrew press, shamefully silent on this subject, will wake up to the crying need for drastic reforms in detention practices. It is one thing to demand tough, uncompromising treatment for suspected terrorists, and quite another to condone treating every suspect as if he were a terrorist.

France woos fanatics

THOSE who dismissed Jean-Marie Le Pen as a spent force on the fringes of French politics have been proved as wrong as the opinion pollsters, who confidently asserted that Jacques Chirac was certain of a first-round victory in France's presidential election. One in every five French citizens voted neo-fascist, a number that is well beyond the fringe.

Le Pen is of course out of the race, but his strong electoral showing and the necessity for horse-trading by the remaining two candidates assures him of a substantial role in the runoff. While it is unlikely that either candidate - Chirac and first-round winner Lionel Jospin - will adopt any of Le Pen's racist policies, such as immigrant deportation, it is already obvious that they are appealing to his voters.

While Le Pen's 4.6 million-strong vote (15 percent) has been grabbing the headlines (another 5% went to a younger version of Le Pen, Philippe de Villiers), the 20% won by the equally loony left cannot be ignored. It raises questions as to what exactly the French electorate wants from its representatives. The extreme left votes were split among several candidates, but they included 2.6 million (8.7%) for the communist Robert Hue and 1.6 million (5.3%) for the throwback Trotskyite Arlette Laguiller. The leftist equivalent of Le Pen, Laguiller has been predicting with some relish a repeat of the glorious student-workers "revolution" of 1968 for this year. The green ecologist Dominique Voynet took another one million votes.

Mockery of Laguiller's call for proletarian revolution six years after the fall of the Soviet bloc has proved premature. She has gathered substantial support for her violent "social ball" from those angry with France's persistent 13% unemployment and widening gap

between rich and poor.

Much of the first-round voting was of course an opportunity for the French to register their irritation with the nation's problems and the record of their politicians, without any risk that an extremist would become president. The surprise victory for Jospin was in itself an expression of voter anger at the petty bickering in the Gaullist Party that pitted former friends Chirac and Edouard Balladur against one another. The newspaper *Le Figaro* dubbed the extremist vote "neo-populism" and added that voters are seeking irrational solutions. "They cannot wait: they want everything at once. They look towards parties living on the fringe of society."

Notwithstanding their humiliation, French pollsters have bounced back to point out that since 60 percent of the vote went to rightist parties and 40 went left, they are still confident that Chirac will win the only round that counts. However, it may not be so simple. Le Pen is an avowed foe of Chirac and has said that "not a single vote" from his party would go to him. Also, many of Le Pen's supporters are working-class rightists - the red-neck element as it would be called in America - who can swing just as quickly to the leftist side if it comes up with a convincing platform to end joblessness, or if Le Pen tells them to vote for Jospin.

Just as worrying was the right-wing pitch for Le Pen votes. Interior Minister Charles Pasqua urged Chirac yesterday to propose partial proportional representation for parliamentary elections. This is a pet aim of Le Pen to boost his National Front's role and win the political power it now lacks. It will be more than disturbing if maneuvering for power by Chirac and Jospin hands Le Pen a victory he cannot grab from the voters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES

Sir, - A notice in a recent edition of *Business Week* notes that McDonald's will break corporate tradition by opening beef-free franchises in India in deference to the Hindu tradition prohibiting the consumption of beef. Instead, vegetable burgers and chicken will be most prominent on the menu. This is, of course, despite a significant secular population, some of whom actually do eat beef.

Yet, when it comes to Israel, McDonald's lacks sensitivity towards the Jewish proscription against eating milk with meat, and insists on serving authentic "cheeseburgers." Why won't McDonald's consider the needs and sensitivities of the religious and traditional elements of the country by adopting the option of using fake cheeses or serving vegetable burgers?

It just seems to be another case of Judaism getting trampled upon. Unfortunately much of the current trampling is taking place in our own country and is propagated by secular liberal elements who claim to be democratic, all the while ignoring the will of the majority.

AVRAHAM HUSARSKY

Rehovot.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Sir, - Further to your editorial of April 12 on President Truman ("A most remarkable president"), may I point out that this great man was also an enthusiastic Freemason, and this fact probably had a bearing on his determined actions in defending democracy and equality, and extending a helping hand to the needy nations of post-war Europe.

Harry S. Truman was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1940, while running for the Senate. He was the first president to rise to the 33rd degree of Freemasonry and he served as Master of the Missouri Lodge of Research in 1950, while in office as President of the United States.

LEON ZELDIN,
Editor,
The Israel Freemason

Herzliya.

OLEG

Sir, - In reply to Muriel Moulton's letter of April entitled "Hoo-ray," let me assure you that I and all my numerous friends love and enjoy Oleg's cartoons, whose witty and gentle sarcasm and ability to "hit the nail on the head" every time, are a pure delight.

NADIA LOURIE

Tel Aviv.

RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS

Sir, - The articles which appeared in your issue of March 31 on the subject of the failed launch of the Gurwin-1 TechSat did not mention a significant feature of that project: a major contribution to the development of this satellite was made by more than a dozen highly skilled immigrant Russian scientists, some of whom had worked in the Russian space program.

These scientists have been primarily sponsored by the Ministry of Absorption for several years.

DR. L.M. SHORR

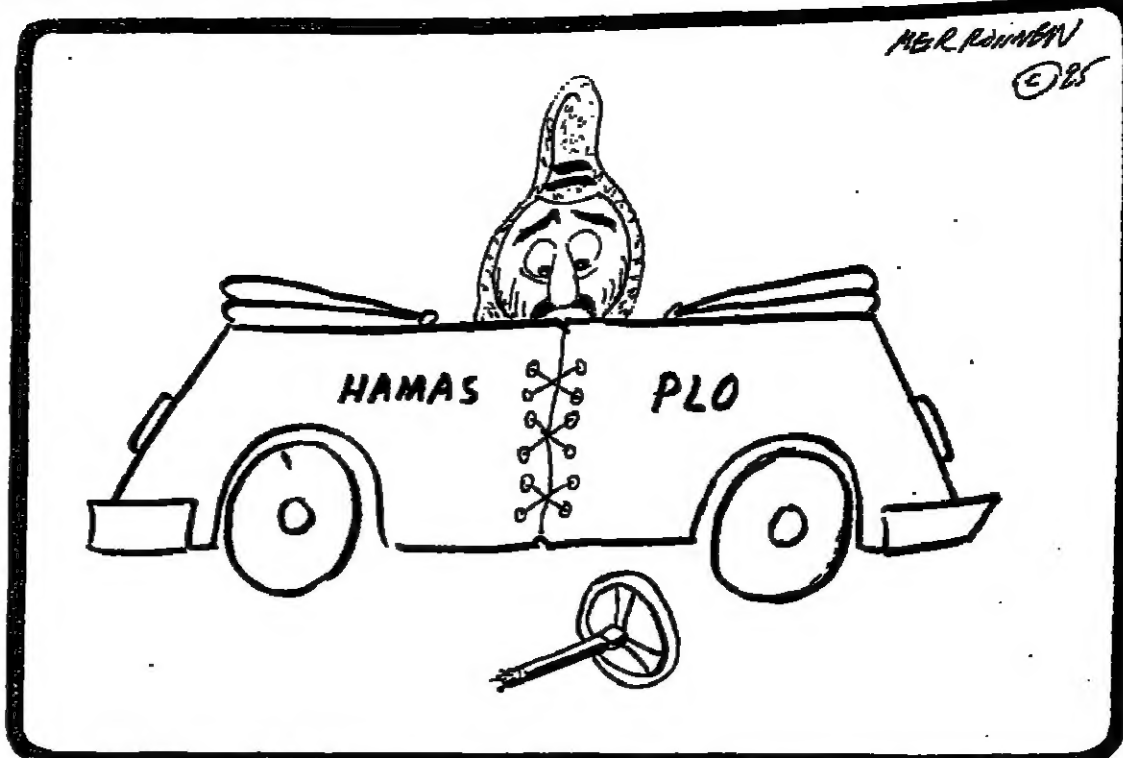
DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Sir, - I wonder why Israel does not allow Israelis who want to pray in Mecca to receive an additional Palestinian passport, the issuing of which is provided for in the Oslo Accords. After all, many Israelis have dual citizenship, and it would not be the first time that an Israeli uses another passport in order to be able to enter an Arab state.

I wonder whether there is any other passport in the world which Israel would object to its citizens being given in addition to their Israeli one.

BEATE ZILVERSMIDT

Holon.



A drive to plant seeds

AARON LERNER

A number of years ago I attended a local panel discussion on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. The late Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz was one of the speakers, and he said something that both disappointed and angered me.

In the course of the discussion I cited the long history of conflict in our region, much of which has nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli conflict, and asked Leibowitz what he thought the long-term prospects were for peace in the Middle East.

Leibowitz replied that it was clear that peace, any peace, would not last forever, and that the most one could expect was to achieve peace for a few years or decades. He added, though, that Israel must make every sacrifice and take every risk in order to achieve a state of peace, no matter how fleeting.

There was no mystery about the difference in outlook between Leibowitz and myself: Being considerably closer to the grave than the cradle, the professor felt compelled to see peace in his time at any price, and for any period.

In contrast, being in my late thirties, I am just as concerned about the risk of defeat in war in another decade or two as I am interested in enjoying a poorly designed and short-lived peace today.

The Rabin government appears to be suffering from the same syndrome as Leibowitz, as evidenced by most of the explanations it gives for the pressing need to shape the "New Middle East" as quickly as possible.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres tells us, for example, that we must reach agreements now with Syria and our other neighbors before the current Arab leaders are

replaced by others steadfastly committed to the destruction of the Jewish state.

But if those leaders' days are numbered, why should Israel trade strategic territory for pieces of paper?

Consider the government's attitude to the "Gaza-Jericho First" experiment. As O.C. Southern Command Maj. Gen. Shaul Mofaz put it: "Arafat... has failed, failed, failed." (*Ha'aretz*, April 14, 1995).

And yet, despite this, the IDF is busy finalizing plans to hand over the West Bank to the PLO

This isn't a peace of the bold - it's a peace of the old

Army (18,000 - 25,000-strong instead of 9,000, as per the Cairo Agreement).

Sure, the IDF won't withdraw within 30 days of a major terrorist attack, but a review of this government's record since Oslo shows that as little as a month without such an attack is enough for all to be forgotten.

ATTITUDES toward the peace with Egypt serve to highlight the bias of those driven to achieve peace at any price.

American experts say that the odds are, at best, even that the current Egyptian government will be replaced by an Islamic fundamentalist regime within a decade. Yet as a result of the peace agreement with Egypt, the US government has put out billions of dol-

lars to modernize the Egyptian army so that it can attain its goal of reaching parity with the IDF.

Rabin has termed the Egyptian-Israeli peace an unqualified success, and an example of what Israel should strive for with its other neighbors.

If one's concerns are limited to the few years ahead, maybe Rabin is correct. But what will Israelis say about the Egypt-Israeli peace if they face a fundamentalist Egyptian regime a year or a decade from now?

This is the basic problem of the current Labor leadership: They claim that they seek the peace of the bold when, in fact, they are negotiating the peace of the old.

This attitude of sacrificing the welfare of future generations for the sake of short-term gain runs counter to Jewish tradition.

The story is told (*Ta'anit*, 23a) of Honi HaMe'agel, the Jewish Rip Van Winkle, who saw an old man planting a carob tree. He asked the man why he was working so hard, since the tree would bear fruit only in 70 years.

Replied the man: "I found a world with carobs because my forefathers planted them, and I say: I also plant a carob tree... for my children after me."

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amos Horev is reported to have complained that it is unacceptable that, in his rush to make peace for his own personal glory, Rabin has determined to make his own biological clock tick the clock of the nation.

Instead of planting the seeds of peace, the premier, in his haste to make history, may be planting the seeds of the destruction of the Jewish state.

The writer is an associate of IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

Support instead of silence

ESTIE LIDAR

HOW can we, the second generation, make tomorrow's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day different from past Holocaust remembrance days? How can we give it real significance and content within our families?

Consider the ways our parents mark the day.

Many survivors say this is a lonely day for them, spent in front of the television, or listening to testimony on the radio. Some survivors say they scrupulously avoid the entire issue, thus entering into their own world of silence.

While some light candles and cry in secret, others relive experiences that we cannot even know, much less describe.

Members of the second generation have similar experiences, albeit on a different level. Simultaneously, and yet separately from our parents, many of us struggle with different ways of remembering, knowing and feeling; or, conversely, with escaping and deceiving ourselves.

Still others among us fight to commemorate the legacy, to symbolize it and pass it down to the next generation. But we, like our parents, are alone in our observances.

The pain and silence that have brought about such difficulties in communication between the two generations scream loudest on this day. Both generations are left bewildered and hesitant, bereft of the ability to make contact, to support one another.

Maybe at last the second generation can reach out to survivors

Empathy for the feelings of these parents and their children tends to come from outside the family. Within, there is only silence.

BUT THIS year can be different.

Maybe 50 years later, now that the passage of time has loosened the bonds of silence and it is easier to feel and to talk, we can turn this remembrance day into a unique opportunity to communicate with the survivors, to attempt to connect with our parents

and let them know that we know, we remember, we think.

Perhaps we can assure our parents that what is said in public is relevant to the family in private. That what is shown on TV touches both the parent-survivors and their grown children who have experienced the Holocaust through their mothers and fathers.

This remembrance day, let each of us seek his or her own personal way to make contact with our parents.

One might pick up the telephone; another might stop by to light a candle. Still others might watch a videotaped testimony that has been collecting dust in a drawer. Even a few moments of shared silence, like visiting a forgotten grave, can be an attempt to tie together the severed ends of a delicate cord.

Tomorrow, as members of the second generation, perhaps we can create new contact with our roots, with ourselves, and with the present reality of our lives.

The writer is a therapist at the Jerusalem branch of AMCHA, Israel's organization for psychological and social services to Israel's 350,000 Holocaust survivors and their families.

POSTSCRIPTS

THE FINANCE Ministry recently sent the Post a press release about Minister Avraham Shochat's visit to China. It was all very interesting - especially a speech Shochat made, which was faxed to us in Chinese, with no translation. That may be why the speech never did get published here.

Daniel Baum

THE BAD SEX Prize, a British award for the worst description of sex in a novel, was awarded to a director of the auction firm Sotheby's.

Philip Hook fought off stiff competition from best-selling novelist Jilly Cooper and Conservative politician Edwina Currie, who was runner-up for her novel *A Parliamentary Affair*.

Hook's book *The Stone-breakers* was awarded the prize by *The Literary Review*.

The passage that clinched his victory included the lines: "Their jaws ground in feverish mutual masturbation. Saliva and sweat. Sweat and saliva. There was a purposeful shedding of clothing."

Hook's prize is a small statuette, said to represent bad sex.

Taxi ride

HELEN MOTRO

ALL my life I have put myself forward as a civil libertarian, a liberal, a peacenik. In short, a democrat.

But in Jerusalem recently, my true colors surfaced, showing me to be no better than the most hypocritical old salon communist.

I had driven to Jerusalem to attend an important meeting, but was delayed in traffic. Night had fallen and I was late.

Now, I have succeeded in mastering the brass twists and turns of Tel Aviv, but driving into the hodgepodge of Jerusalem is as daunting as facing the colonial illogic of Boston's one-way streets after the comforting geometric symmetry of midtown Manhattan.

A double outsider, I was frightened of crossing the invisible borders of the "unified" city into infested territory. With my Israeli license plates and my naiveté, I would be a sitting target.

I suddenly remembered some advice given to me by a fellow American now based in Tel Aviv: When in doubt in Jerusalem, leave your car at (what used to be) the Hilton Hotel, and hop into a cab.

This I did, with relief. I was just sitting back in the seat, starting to relax, when the driver revealed his nationality. "Blessed," he repeated my destination back to me, "Hillel Street."

I called myself a peacenik. Then my true colors surfaced

At his unmistakable accent, I fled the cab. Half panicking, I accosted the hotel doorman and pleaded with him to "get me another taxi, a driver with a... a kippa, not a member of a minority, I mean," I blurted out, "find me an Israeli driver!"

Even as I stammered the words, I felt waves of shame rising. I was ushered into the next cab on line, obligingly driven by an Amos or a Yossi.

I kept my eyes focused on the ground; but I felt the dark stare of the Arab upon me as he stood idle beside his idling motor.

Humiliation aside, he must have hated me for his lost fare. But however he judged me, it could be no harsher than my own judgment of myself.

My years of convictions hadn't proved strong enough to hold up a feather when it came to reality. I was too chicken to take a 10-minute drive in a registered taxi through western Jerusalem with an Arab driver at eight in the evening. And I was only going to Hillel Street, not from Hebron to Ramallah.

THEY SAY a liberal is a bigot who hasn't yet been mugged, but my anxiety anticipated the mugging. Unassisted, I put the dagger in the driver's hand.

By my blatant action and blunt words in those brief seconds, I did more damage to the cause of coexistence than I could ever counterbalance by a lifetime of dues paid to the Association for Civil Rights.

During the nascent American civil rights movement, we used to cite with outrage the humiliation of Blacks who might wait for hours on a street corner trying to flag down a cab, while dozens of empty taxis whizzed past them, windows up and doors locked.

Now the shoe is on the other foot. I too have failed the taxi test.

It's no justification protesting that it was the prudent thing to do, an excusable overreaction, that "you never know," or that I have a responsibility to my family as well as to my ideals.

For when I heard that driver speak and saw his dark eyes in the rear view mirror, I was light years away from any convictions.

And I am doubly damned. Deep inside, I know that, given the chance again, I would refuse the ride again. I am actually relieved I didn't take it. But I have seen my true colors.

So I too am a casualty of the intifada and the occupation - and for that I ask the driver's pardon, and wait for my conscience to give me some peace.

The writer is a lawyer in Kfar Shmaryahu.

Dior to be named new Mizrahi Bank head

NEIL COHEN

YACOV Dior will be the new managing director of United Mizrahi Bank, the new owners of the bank will announce shortly, sources close to Dior confirmed yesterday.

Dior is currently the managing director of Israel Credit Card/Visa, which he has run for the last eight years, and is generally regarded as the architect of Visa's success.

Dior joined Visa from Bank Leumi, where he held senior positions in the bank's international division.

The bank's new owners, a consortium including local Coca Cola boss Muzi Wertheim and ship-

ping and real estate magnate Yuli Ofer, have been holding discussions with Dior for several weeks, but a final decision was only taken in the last few days, according to the sources.

Other candidates considered are believed to have included Ehud Shapira, head of Bank Leumi's corporate division, as well as senior managers at Mizrahi itself.

It is not yet known when Dior, who is Orthodox and should therefore fit in well with Mizrahi's largely religious staff and clientele, will take up his new post.

David Bloomberg, the bank's current managing director, said shortly after the new owners took control that he planned to quit and would stay on until a replacement was found.



Israel Credit Card/Visa managing director Yacov Dior.

BZW purchases Bezek stock

NEIL COHEN and JUDY SIEGEL

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd (BZW) bought the 4.7 percent block of Bezek stock that was sold on Monday, Bezek confirmed yesterday.

Globes reported there were rumors that BZW was acting on behalf of British telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless refused either to confirm or deny that it bought the stock.

BZW confirmed that Cable and Wireless is a client.

Bezek managing director Yitzhak Kaul said he was not directly

informed of the purchase.

He added that as the holding was below 5% - at which point a shareholder becomes an interested party under Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rules - the buyer was not required to inform either Bezek or the stock exchange.

Kaul said that, to the best of his knowledge, BZW bought the stock on behalf of a client and not for its own account or that of the Israel Fund, the investment trust managed by BZW's investment

management arm.

Cable and Wireless is Britain's second largest telecommunications company.

Its main subsidiary is Hong Kong Telecom, and it also owns Mercury Communications in the UK. Cable & Wireless is chaired by Lord Young, a former Conservative cabinet minister and a prominent member of the Jewish community in the UK who has also advised the Israeli government on its privatization strategy.

The company previously expressed interest in the possibility of buying a stake in Bezek and in participating in a consortium to bid for a license to carry long-distance calls.

The government intends to sell a major stake in Bezek soon.

If C & W is the buyer, its purchase may be a platform to build a bigger stake in or even eventually gain control of Bezek. The shares were bought from Israeli institutions at a premium of approximately 15% of the market price prior to the deal.

Tens of thousands of construction workers expected to join Makefet

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

TALKS are set to open in the next few days to register tens of thousands of construction workers as new members of the Makefet pension fund.

The decision was made yesterday at a meeting of Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon, Contractors Association officers, head of the Histadrut's social security (pension funds) department Ehud Papirish, the directors of Makefet and construction workers' pension fund, and the construction workers' union leader.

Ramon said the agreement reached recently between the Histadrut and the government on the pension funds "ensures the safety of the older members, while enabling us to open negotiations for the joining of myriads of new members to the Makefet pension fund."

He said the construction workers' pension fund will retain its existing members, but they will receive pension services via the Makefet fund to save expenses.

The construction workers' pension fund has the largest actuarial deficit, due to the dwindling of construction workers' ranks since 1967, and it is feared it will not be able to keep its commitments to its pensioners in the future.

The issue of the new members is more complicated, Ramon added, and their terms and benefits should be settled in negotiations between the Contractors Association and Makefet.

Contractors Association chairman Mordechai Yona responded with enthusiasm, noting that only 28,000 out of the 150,000 construction workers are presently members of a pension fund.

'Trade talks with Jordan will conclude by deadline'

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL and Jordan will conclude trade negotiations by next week's deadline, Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri said yesterday.

The agreement is being held up by Israeli demands for greater tariff cuts and by the lack of an agreement in principle on the Jordanian side on the framework of a free-trade agreement that will come in force within three years, Peri said.

Jordan has agreed to cut duties by 10 percent on an agreed list of Israeli goods which are not produced in Jordan. Peri estimates that negotiators will be able to meet the deadline without having recourse to intervention at the political level.

Peri also noted significant progress on trade negotiations with the European Union. He said, however, that the issue of food and agricultural products was still not resolved, and the Europeans had raised additional demands for increased access to their agricultural products over what Israel was prepared to give.

By contrast, Foreign Ministry Economic Department head Oded Eran said Israel had responded positively to almost all the Europeans' requests contingent on their acceptance of Israel's demands.

Eran noted that the Europeans have agreed to open government telecommunications procurement to Israel. The sides are about to initial an agreement in principle on government procurement, which will allow negotiations on a detailed agreement to proceed throughout the year it will take the EU to ratify the new trade agreement.

Negotiations opened yesterday on Israel's participation in EU-wide joint research and development projects. According to Eran, the Israeli delegation is primarily dealing with the financial details of Israel's participation.

Should Israel join the research and development group, it will have to pay about \$30 million annually. The key issue of Israeli participation in the group's decision forum is being dealt with at the political level.

Eran said he was optimistic that EU ministers will follow French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe's lead to give Israel a say on research and development matters.

Retail sales jump 17% in first quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

RETAIL sales shot up 17 percent in real terms in the first quarter of the year, as consumer spending took off after moderating in the last quarter of 1994, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Sales fell 12% in the fourth quarter, after rising between 8% and 13% in the previous three quarters.

Food sales followed a similar pattern.

The figures were seasonally

adjusted.

The bureau's survey includes marketing networks, chain stores, supermarkets, and retail stores selling food, textiles, clothing, shoes, durable goods and other goods - except cars, car parts and residential heating oil and gas.

According to the bureau, retail store sales represent 25% of all private consumption expenditures and 30% of all food spending.

'Court should force Shavit to step down'

Post Business Staff

THE Movement for Quality Government in Israel petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday, demanding that Treasury capital markets division head Meir Shavit be forced to step down because police plan to charge him with falsifying corporate documents.

The petition asked for a show-cause order which would force Civil Service Commissioner Yitzhak Gal-Nur, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to explain why they have not suspended Shavit, who was also insurance supervisor at the Treasury.

Police have recommended

charging Shavit on suspicion that while serving in 1990 as financial vice-president of Ararat insurance company, he signed checks which were given to MK Avraham Shapira for insurance commission, despite the fact that Shapira was not an insurance agent.

Shapira's Carmel Carpets was allegedly buying insurance from Ararat at exaggerated prices and then receiving kickbacks labeled as consulting fees.

The group decided to petition the High Court after media reports said last week that the police had finished their investigation and recommended to the attorney-general that Shavit be



Police have recommended charging Shavit.

When the group asked the Treasury and Gal-Nur to suspend Shavit in January, the Treasury relieved Shavit of his duties as insurance supervisor but kept him on as head of the capital markets division.

Two Effar managers suspected of misleading investors

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TWO senior managers at Effar (Tiberias) confessed to false registration of information in an attempt to mislead investors, the Securities Authority said yesterday at the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

Effar chairman and manager Efraim Lahav and deputy managing director Bruria Lahav were released on bail of NIS 400,000 each yesterday.

The Securities Authority suspects them of inflating Effar's accounts to mislead the public and the firm's investors.

Effar, which is traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, manufactures paper cleaning products.

The authority suspects the managers of false registration of the company's accounts last year, including registration of fictitious sales and increasing its balance sheet.

According to the authority, the managers tried to present investors with a rosier picture of the company's financial situation in an attempt to make it easier for the company to raise capital.

The authority said the managers concealed the false registration of information from accountants by forging documents.

According to an external company auditor, the suspects increased Effar's balance sheet almost eight times its real size, about NIS 30 million above its actual value.

Rafael workers fire first shot in campaign to fight dismissals

Tadiran sends dismissal notices to 170 employees

DAVID RUDGE and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

WORKERS at Rafael (Armaments Development Authority) have fired their first shots in a campaign to fight the planned dismissal of 650 employees.

Representatives of the workers' committees told reporters in Haifa yesterday that a delegation sent to stage a silent protest outside the home of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was just the first step.

They warned that the fight to save jobs would make the recent struggle of the Israel Shipyard workers look like a picnic.

The workers' committee officials noted that more than 3,000 jobs had been cut as a result of recovery plans over the past few years, and there were now 4,500 employees at the plant.

They charged that the present round of cutbacks, proposed by management to run the company on a

profitable basis, were unjustified.

They dismissed as ridiculous management's claims that there was not enough work to go around, saying many employees were having to do overtime to cope with the workload.

The workers' committee is calling for serious talks with management over the proposed dismissals.

Meanwhile, Tadiran sent dismissal notices yesterday to 170 of the 1,040 workers at its communications system plant in Holon.

Tadiran workers reacted by closing down the plant.

Management said it plans to file a personal lawsuit against workers who have harmed the company. The work dispute started several weeks ago following failure to agree on an improved work agreement.

million.

Segev also said that negotiations are continuing with other suppliers for natural gas. Israel has been holding talks with Qatar and Turkmenistan.

Egypt is currently Israel's largest supplier of crude oil.

Israel buys two million tons a year on a contractual basis and additional quantities of Egyptian crude on the spot market.

It imports a total of some 12 million tons of oil a year. Reuter

Egypt willing to sign deal for selling Israel natural gas

EGYPT has officially informed Israel of its willingness to sign an agreement for natural gas supplies, Energy Minister Gonen Segev said yesterday.

"This is the first time we have had an official Egyptian commitment to sell us gas," Segev said.

The commitment came in the form of a letter to Segev from Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi Banbi, following Segev's trip to Cairo earlier this month.

In his letter, Banbi said he

expected development plans for the gas fields to be finalized within the next few months.

Segev said Israel and Egypt hope to sign a memorandum of understanding by the end of 1995 that would regulate quantities and price.

Israel is interested in buying the natural gas equivalent of two million tons of oil from Egypt.

The natural gas will be transported to Israel via a pipeline that will run from the gas field in

million.

Segev also said that negotiations are continuing with other suppliers for natural gas. Israel has been holding talks with Qatar and Turkmenistan.

Egypt is currently Israel's largest supplier of crude oil.

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It imports a total of some 12 million tons of oil a year. Reuter

Belizovsky: Growth won't be as high as expected

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE economy will grow some four percent this year, about one 1% lower than the government's expectations, Manufacturers Association director-general Yoram Belizovsky said.

The drop in the forecasted growth rate mainly reflects an expected decrease in export growth to 4%-5% from the government's initial forecasts of 8%, Belizovsky said.

He said the slowdown in growth will boost unemployment to 8%, slightly higher than last year's 7.5% rate.

Belizovsky forecasted that the public sector wages will increase a real 8%-10% this year, compared with a 2% rise in the business sector.

"There is a good chance the economy will reach its targeted

annual inflation rate of 8%-11% this year," he said. "The major factor which may prevent the economy from reaching this goal is housing prices."

"If housing prices continue to fall, like in March, the inflation rate may drop to below 8% this year."

Belizovsky called on the government to reduce the government budget by NIS 2 billion-NIS 2.5b. In addition, he demanded that the Bank of Israel reduce interest rates by another 2%-3%.

"The significant growth in the trade deficit and the growing need to finance it with foreign loans will create a difficult limitation on the economy's ability to grow in future years," said Belizovsky.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (26.4.95)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$200,000)	5.200	5.375	5.750	
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.750	5.000	5.500	
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	3.125	3.125	3.625	
U.S. dollar (\$1,000)	2.250	2.375	2.750	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.4.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate*
Currency basket	Buy	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4445	3.5024	2.57	3.4778
German mark	2.9234	2.9787	2.10	2.9540
French franc	4.7054	4.7844	2.10	2.9540
Japanese yen (100)	0.6048	0.6144	4.82	4.88
Swiss franc	5.5443	5.6015	0.59	0.6119
Italian lire (100,000)	1.2530	1.2608	0.59	0.6119
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5811	2.6228	1.87	1.9280
British pound	0.2882	0.2928	2.53	2.6074
Scandinavian krona	0.4746	0.4823	0.48	0.41
Danish krone	0.5430	0.5518	0.48	0.4035
Finland mark	0.6882	0.7004	0.48	0.4795
Canadian dollar	2.1493	2.1840	0.67	0.6860
Australian dollar	2.1332	2.1884	0.72	0.7180
S. African rand	0.9105	0.9238	2.08	2.1513
Belgian franc (10)	1.0391	1.0529	0.73	0.8175
Austrian schilling (10)	0.0388	0.0399	1.02	1.048
Irish punt	1.7234	1.7512	2.98	3.14
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.89	1.7434
Irish punt	3.9164	3.9796	0.83	0.8157
Spanish peseta (100)	4.7884	4.8771	4.71	4.8483
—	2.3800	2.4268	2.34	2.4140

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
 SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Powerful Poles pound Israel 4-3 in Zabrze

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S national soccer squad fell to its first defeat in Group 1 of the European Nations' Championship yesterday evening, losing 4-3 to Poland in Zabrze.

The result casts a significant shadow over Israel's hopes of qualifying for a place in the final stages of the competition due to be held in England next year. While Israel still holds second place, France - which hosts Slovakia this evening - will displace the Israelis if it can muster a victory.

Israel's defeat was hard to stomach, given a topsy-turvy first half which saw Shlomo Scharf's side concede a goal in the first minute, only to rally back to take a 2-1 lead before the interval with goals from Ronny Rosenthal and Haim Revivo.

Within five minutes of the restart Sporting Lisbon's Andrzej Juskowiak equalized. In the decisive quarter hour that followed the Poles pounded Israel's bewildered defense, adding two more goals that took the game beyond the visitor's grasp. The Israelis never let their heads drop, and reduced the deficit through a fine 77th-minute volley from substitute Itzik Zohar, but were unable to find a further path to goal. The 23,000-capacity Zabrze stadium was less than half-full, as the match got under way. Many fans were still settling in their places as the Poles mounted the first move of the game down the left side of midfield. As the Israeli defense shirked the tackle, Wojciech Kowalczyk gently nudged the ball into the path of Piotr Nowak who blasted home beyond a bemused and unsighted Ronny Rosenthal.

The Poles continued to threaten with Nowak coming close and Kowalczyk hitting the bar with Ginzburg stranded.

As the half wore on Israel's midfield at last began to burn. Eyal Berkowitz and Haim Revivo orchestrated some meaningful pressure on



TROUBLE UNDERFOOT - Ronny Rosenthal fights for the ball against Poland's Tomasz Waldoch (5) while Ofer Mizrahi (10) looks on in yesterday's match.

the Polish defense, although Ofer Mizrahi continued to wage a losing battle in the center forward position.

In the 37th minute Moshe Giam broke free on the left wing and

flashed a teasing cross over to the far post which Rosenthal managed to chest into the net despite the close attention of a Polish defender and goalkeeper Jozsef Wandiak.

The Israelis stunned the locals three minutes before the break as Berkowitz slanted an elegant pass

into the goalmouth to the loitering Revivo. The national league's leading scorer cheekily tucked the ball under the sprawling figure of Wandiak to the delight of his colleagues for Israel to take the lead.

Over the interval Polish coach Henryk Apostel, who had indicated before the match that he would resign if his side lost, staged the most effective pep talk of his career. Together with two astute substitutions his words helped his men resume the

fight with confidence.

Juskowiak was ideally positioned to tie the score in the 50th minute from a rebound after Ginzburg had produced an acrobatic parry from Kowalczyk.

The equalizing goal signaled the beginning of an Israeli collapse. The Poles powered their way through the inside forward channels and wreaked havoc down Israel's left side of defense.

In previous group matches Israel

had been able to relieve danger to the back line by cleverly playing the ball out of defense. On this occasion Scharf's side panicked, enabling Poland to turn the screws tighter and tighter. A 55th-minute cross found Kowalczyk totally abandoned by his marker Felix Halfon, and gleefully guided his free header beyond Ginzburg.

Seven minutes later the Israelis succumbed to an embarrassing goal, direct from an oblique free kick

drilled into the net around a wholly ineffectual two-man wall by Poland's captain Roman Kosecki.

Scharf finally responded to his players' plight by bringing on Zohar. The move was rapidly repaid with a fine goal in the 77th minute.

The Polish players were too experienced to let the Israelis add to their tally and managed to close the visitors down until the final whistle.

Although the Israelis were understandably dejected at the end, the result was just, and the gritty Polish display emphasized just how tough Group 1 is.

With Poland now just two points

behind Israel, and like Slovakia still holding a game in hand over the top three sides, the group is shaping up into a situation in which any one of four teams could seize a place to the finals together with leaders Romania. In order to take a ticket to England, the Israelis must capture at least four points from their three remaining away matches.

European Nations' Championship qualifying group 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Romania	5	3	2	0	9	4	11
Israel	5	2	3	1	10	8	9
France	5	1	0	4	2	11	2
Poland	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Slovakia	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Azerbaijan	5	0	0	5	1	12	0

Under-21 side beaten by lone Polish goal

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL'S under-21 side set the trend for the disappointing result achieved yesterday by their senior counterparts later in the afternoon when they were beaten 1-0 by Poland in Chorzow.

The visitors played as equals, although some dubious goalkeeping by Liran Stranber in the Israeli goal certainly gave his teammates tense moments.

Striker Shai Holtzman was Israel's most dangerous player throughout the match and in the second half had two shots hit the woodwork.

In the first half Holtzman had three more attempts on the Polish goal, but the hosts' goalkeeper averted danger on each occasion.

The Polish winner came in the 44th minute when substitute Radoslaw Kaluzny struck a superb 20-meter shot high into the left-hand corner of the net, giving the outstruck Stranber no chance.

Holtzman's first attempt to equalize in the second half came from a free kick 19 meters out on

the left. The ball curved over the wall and rebounded off the crossbar. The second attempt also came from the left as Holtzman ran into the area, beat a defender and shot across the goal with the ball hitting the right post.

Only some 1,200 fans watched in the huge stadium which the senior Polish team is banned from using for full internationals because of rioting there by local fans in the World Cup qualifier against England in 1993.

In the other match in the competition yesterday, Romania trounced Azerbaijan 5-0 in Trabzon, Turkey after a goalless scoreline at halftime.

Romania's Andrean hit a hat-trick and Constantin and Doreck added the others.

European Under-21 Championship qualifying group one

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	5	3	2	0	18	1	11
Romania	5	2	1	2	4	11	5
Poland	5	3	1	1	10	7	10
Israel	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
Slovakia	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Azerbaijan	5	0	0	5	0	20	0

Nantes players face ax for vital qualifier

NANTES, France (Reuters) - France, rising to its reputation as one of soccer's quietest nations, looks set to drop Nantes players for today's European championship match with Slovakia, the first international in Nantes for a decade. In all, 22 matches are scheduled today.

The irony has not been lost on fans in the western French city who are hardly rushing to buy tickets for the vital group one fixture, which both teams badly need to win to preserve their chances of reaching next year's finals in England.

French trainer Aime Jacquet, concerned that his team has scored only twice in five qualifying games to date, has hinted he may drop Nantes winger Reynald Pedros and striker Patrice Loko,

the two most promising youngsters in the French game.

Paris St-Germain forward David Ginola looks set for a recall and Juventus' midfielder Didier Deschamps, fit again after a long injury layoff, is likely to take over the midfield dynamo role.

The presence of Deschamps and of AC Milan's tower of strength Marcel Desailly, two old favorites in Nantes where they both began their careers, will at least give the locals something to cheer about.

France, which has not played in Paris since its shock home defeat to Israel and Bulgaria in 1993 lost a place in last year's World Cup finals, had decided to play in the provinces in the hope of attracting more enthusiastic support.

Baseball off to not-so-clean start

NEW YORK (AP) - Star players are hobbling, and hitters are ahead of pitchers. The real umpires are missing, for now, and the schedules are messy.

No, baseball isn't exactly getting off to a clean start in 1995.

Before last night's scheduled season-opening game between Los Angeles and Florida, it had been 257 days since the last game that counted, the biggest gap in major league history.

So what can fans expect to see as the game returns?

A lot of hitting, probably. A spring training shortened in half to three weeks by the strike has caused problems for pitchers, and the overall exhibition ERA is over 5.00.

Steve Avery, Mike Mussina and Bret Saberhagen were among those hit hard in their lineup starts for the regular season. Bob Welch and Ted Higuera were released in the last couple of days, and 11-year veteran Joe Hesketh retired Monday night after giving three runs in two-thirds of an inning for the New York Yankees.

Roger Clemens, Juan Gonzalez and Alan Trammell are among the players already on the disabled list. Many more have been hobbled by pulled

hamstrings and other nagging problems.

This spring, meanwhile, might see a lot of players challenging umpires.

The regular umpires have been locked out by owners, and plan to picket. Replacement crews, made up from former major and minor league umpires - many of them released from those jobs - and college amateurs have been lined up to call the games. In the exhibitions, there were arguments.

For the first time since a strike lopped off a week in 1972, fans will go into a season knowing that it will not be a full 162 games.

With 18 games missing - even with odd, one-game series jammed in - there's almost no chance that Ken Griffey Jr., Matt Williams or two-time MVP Frank Thomas can come close to chasing Roger Maris's home-run record, as they did last season.

There still may be 20-game winners, but there's no hope of seeing a magical year when someone - three-time Cy Young winner Greg Maddux, maybe? - is on pace to win 30.

In a way, that makes 1995 a lost season, even before the first pitch. It's broken, and even a signed settlement between owners and players won't be able to make it whole this year.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Masil, Shirgaoker hit centuries

Lions Lod 223/4 (Isaac Masil 107 n.e., Benny David 56) beat Ramla 81 in this week's Israel Cricket Association action.

In other matches, Neveh Yonatan 252/8 (Shai Shirgaoker 101, Ahy Daniels 60) beat Young Ashdod 168 (Reuben Hirsch 67, Raymond Ashton 44); Lod 152/5 (Hanan Sogomon 41, Avner Vaskar 32) topped Yeroham 159 (Avner Vaskar 42/0) and Tel Aviv 110/2 (Mark Hamburger 58 n.o.) stopped Petah Tikva 105 (Shai Samuel 30 n.o., Alan Moss 5/26).

Stanley Perlman

Ra'anana bowlers in clean sweep

Ra'anana won the annual Pesach bowls competition at Kfar Maccabiah. Raymond Sher, Len Averbuch, Itz Shamos and Antonio Rachimov outclassed the Kfar side of George Kaminsky, Ralph Rahmani, Nadav Shalev and Oren Cohen to win the Mencl Donner Trophy 23-8.

In the women's final, Ra'anana's Sadie Hinkovitz, Lorraine Rabman, Freda Haimovitz and Lynette Goldberg beat Ramat Gan's Naomi Fix, Tzila Gavish, Riti Melvay and Miri Goldfarb 24-23 to win the Gail Ziv Trophy.

Norman Spiro

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Monday's results: Florida 5, Ottawa 1; Hartford 4, Montreal 3; N.Y. Islanders 5, Boston 3; N.Y. Rangers 5, Washington 4; Buffalo 3, Tampa Bay 1; Anaheim 2, Calgary 1.

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METAPLE

Haberfeld to be questioned again

FORMER Histadrut Chairman Haim Haberfeld is to be questioned today by police on allegations he used labor federation funds in his bid to hold onto his post in last year's Histadrut elections.

It will be the second time that Haberfeld is called in for questioning. He refuses to hire an attorney and does not regard himself as a suspect at this stage. He said he is ready to give the police any assistance.

Meanwhile, senior police sources reiterated yesterday that Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and MK Avi Yehzekel will also be summoned for questioning soon. The sources rejected media reports that police are

waiting for the approval of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair before calling Kessar and Yehzekel in for questioning.

Ben-Yair has been kept abreast of the investigation, but there is no need for a go-ahead from him before the two are interrogated, the sources said.

Kessar and Yehzekel are suspected of using Histadrut funds in their 1992 Labor Party Knesset primary campaigns.

Over a month ago, Haberfeld was called in for the first time for questioning by police in connection with the Histadrut fraud case. Since then, much material has been gathered showing his

campaign team used labor federation funds in last year's Histadrut election.

National Fraud Squad investigators have both witnesses and documents showing the Haberfeld campaign used Histadrut funds for everything from campaign posters and gatherings, to hiring a private detective company to collect information on his election rival, current Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon.

Yesterday, Dov Izik, who ran Haberfeld's campaign was questioned again at National Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa.

In another development, police also suspect now that hun-

dreds of thousands of shekels belonging to the Romanian Immigrants Association (Hit'ahdut Olei Romania) were used to finance campaigns for the Histadrut primary.

Police yesterday questioned former Histadrut treasurer Artur Yisraelovitz on this newly discovered alleged corruption affair in the Histadrut. Yisraelovitz, who is also head of the Romanian Immigrants Association, is suspected of using the association's funds to finance Labor's Histadrut campaigns.

The documents were transferred to the police a few weeks ago by the Jewish Agency, which had given the money to the Romanian association.

Harish, Shetreet pledge they will oppose total Golan withdrawal

DAVID RUDGE and SARAH HONIG

TWO Labor ministers served notice yesterday that they would not vote for a total withdrawal from the Golan.

Both Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish and Economics and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet argued that withdrawal from the entire Golan contradicts the Labor platform.

Harish told a gathering of party activists that "as things stand inside the party today, there is no consensus that would allow the leadership to undertake a return to the international line with Syria."

Personally, Harish went on, "I support the Labor platform which speaks of no more than territorial compromise. Under no circumstances will I raise my hand in favor of going down from the Golan and relinquishing all of it to Syria."

Harish further warned the party leadership "not to push MK Avig-

dor Kahalani into a political corner, thereby repeating the mistake the party made on the eve of the Histadrut elections when it pushed Haim Ramon and his allies out. This resulted in our losing the Histadrut and in the pitiful attempts now to woo Ramon back. The same could happen with Kahalani, and we could well lose the general elections if we do not exercise prudence. There must be an earnest attempt to talk to Kahalani, particularly because the subject at hand is one in which essential security issues are involved. It would be disastrous to just threaten Kahalani with an unloaded gun."

Shetreet said he would seek to convince the rest of the party against the notion of ceding the entire Golan. "This would go against everything we had promised the voters before the last elections, and party leaders simply do not have the authority to so blatantly violate the

platform on which they campaigned. This would be tantamount to a breach of trust."

Golan Heights Resident Committee leaders yesterday welcomed the comments by Harish and Shetreet.

"We hope that more and more ministers and MKs will now begin to wake up and return to themselves and the party line and not blindly follow the policies of Prime Minister [Yitzhak] Rabin and Foreign Minister [Shimon] Peres," said committee spokesman Uri Heimer.

"There's no doubt that Harish and Shetreet are giving expression to the Labor party's manifesto and its commitments to the voters. Anything else that deviates from this platform, such as the comments expressed by Rabin and Peres [over a possible withdrawal to the international border] constitutes a betrayal of those who voted for the party," said Heimer.

Sailor denies hazing was abusive

ALON PINKAS

A SAILOR in an elite navy unit, pictured in the media earlier this week as covered in a mixture of urine, excrement, gun oil, flour, and sand and then kicked by his mates to mark his promotion, yesterday denied he was humiliated by the ceremony. He also denied being physically abused or that excrement or urine were used.

The photos were originally given to Israel TV's Channel 1 by a bystander who since completed his military service. The sailor, and others in different units, all described such ceremonies as commonplace and performed with the consent of the promoted serviceman.

However, senior officers yesterday said there is a thin line between celebrating and humiliating.

"Water, even eggs have been thrown at soldiers or officers who were promoted or returned from a solo flight or a successful mission since this army was established. This is a common practice in other military organizations around the world. It's part of the service, albeit not the most esthetic of rituals. But we must make sure it does not become a habit and that abuse is not turned into a trend," a senior officer said.

"At no stage of the *zabur* [military slang for the ceremony] was I beaten," the sailor in question said. "The entire thing lasted five, maybe 10 minutes. When I realized what it was leading to, I took off my uniform."

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday he condemns the phenomenon. "There is no place in the army for such acts, even if the soldier decides not to press charges. I'm not sure it is the only case in the army and there is no place for it even if the description was exaggerated."

In another matter, Shahak said he is concerned about lack of motivation among reserve soldiers, particularly in combat units. "We must take public action. The talk [by different organizations calling for reduction in service days] might have a price attached."

Liat Collins contributed to this report.



Moslem pilgrims wait to cross into Jordan yesterday at the Allenby Bridge. (Ariel Jerzolimski)

Israeli Moslems finally cross into Jordan en route for Mecca

DAVID RUDGE

MORE than 2,600 Israeli Moslems finally set off yesterday on the annual haj to Mecca after a series of red-tape wrangles.

The pilgrims crossed the border into Jordan via the Allenby Bridge on their Israeli passports, and were later issued travel documents to make the trip to Mecca as part of the Jordanian haj delegation.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet was at the crossing point to wish the pilgrims a safe

journey. He told reporters that unnecessary delays had been caused primarily by Palestinian elements who had persuaded the Saudi authorities to include Israeli Moslems and those from Judea/Samaria on the list of those going from the Palestinian Authority area.

Israel, as well as the Israeli Arab leadership, insisted that the travel plans of Israeli Moslems

and those from Judea/Samaria should be the same as in previous years, and not connected to the PA.

The matter was finally resolved following top-level diplomacy and US mediation between Israel and the Saudi authorities.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who was also at the Allenby Bridge crossing point, yesterday, categorically rejected Shetreet's allegations.

Islamic Movement may bid for Knesset

DAVID RUDGE

THE Israeli Arab Islamic Movement appears closer than ever to entering the national political arena and participating in the next Knesset elections in one form or another.

Ibrahim Sarsur, spokesman for the movement, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the results of a nationwide survey clearly indicate that most followers, as well as Israeli Arabs in general, are in favor of such a move. The findings of the poll, however, are not conclusive. There still has to be a meeting of the movement's leadership to discuss the results of the survey and reach a decision.

The Islamic Movement has refrained from entering national politics in the past, despite its widespread grassroots support and successes in the municipal field, on religious and procedural grounds.

Recently, world Islamic religious leaders ruled that Islamic movements, wherever they might be, have the right and duty to participate in national elections in secular regimes and countries, including Israel.

The leadership of the movement in Israel, however, has remained divided over the question, and recently, political head Sheikh Raed Salah, mayor of Umm al-Fahm reiterated his opposition to it running in the Knesset elections.

In contrast, the movement's spiritual leader, Sheikh Abdallah Nimr Darweesh, as well as Sarsur, who is head of Kafr Kassem local council, and many other leading figures, believe the movement should be involved in national politics.

Darweesh has been more prominent lately in commenting on matters relating to Israeli Arabs and problems concerning the Palestinian Authority, often in conjunction with another leading Israeli Arab, Dr. Ahmed Tibi, a senior adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Tibi is seriously considering heading an Arab list in the next elections.

The current cooperation between Darweesh and Tibi seems a likely starting point for a new party that would include the Islamic Movement.

Netanyahu moves to convene party committee over primaries

SARAH HONIG

LIKUD Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday moved to convene the party's central committee to approve a system of primaries for choosing Likud Knesset candidates.

MK David Levy has threatened to bolt the party should a system be opposed by him.

Netanyahu dispatched an official letter to central committee chairman Maxim Levy, David Levy's brother, requesting that they meet to fix a date for the committee session. Sources close to Netanyahu mention late May or early June.

Maxim Levy is abroad and returns in a few days. Should he refuse to convene the committee, Netanyahu can override him and call the committee to session himself. The central committee is to take up recommendations submitted by the secretariat. However, the secretariat put off a decision so that David Levy could join the deliberations and make his own proposals. Levy has boycotted all deliberations of Likud forums since the 1993 leadership primary in which Netanyahu beat him.

US Congressmen here for fact-finding mission

ALON PINKAS

MEMBERS of the US House Foreign-Affairs Committee and its subcommittees arrived here Monday night for a three-day fact-finding mission which will include meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The delegation is led by Representative Benjamin Gilman (Republican), and includes Republicans Bill Thomas, Doug Bereuter, Pete King, John Mica, and Democrats Charles Rangel, Nita Lowey, Tom Sawyer, Gary Ackerman, Bill Richardson, and Esteban Torres.

Later in the week, the group will visit Jordan as part of the regional trip. Next week, Rabin leaves for Washington and is scheduled to meet with Congress.

Winning cards & numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds, and seven of clubs.

In the Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 1, 6, 18, 30, 32 and 38. The additional number was 23.

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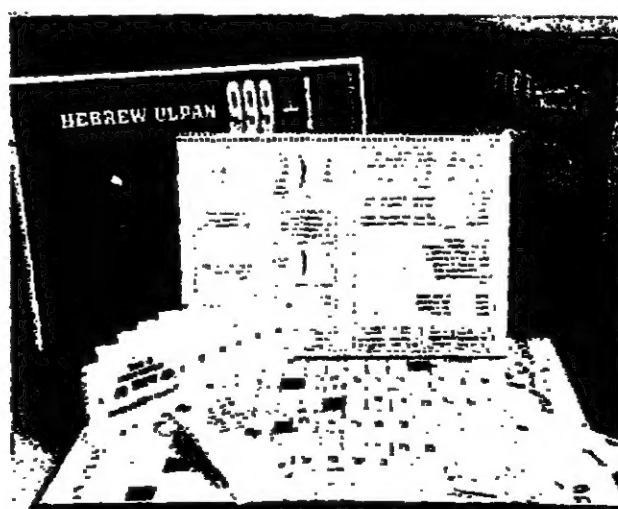
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